

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The flexible cardiac valve prosthesis 20 is illustrated in Figure 3. It is a bio-prosthesis that has been taken from a cow or a calf. For this purpose, a section 24-of a blood vessel including a-vascular valve leaflets 25 was removed. This valve 24-prosthesis 20 may be a single-wing or a three-wing valve. According to Figure 4, this valve prosthesis 20 is placed within a stent 21. The stent 21 is a tubular element of metal rods which, in the present example, are bent meander-like and allow for an axial compression or radial expansion. Other stent structures could also be used, such as, for example, a cell structure of stretch material. It is essential that the stent can reliably assume a compressed tubular shape and a n expanded tubular shape. The hose-shaped wall 24 of the vascular prosthesis 20 is sewed to the rods of the stent 21. Thus, the vascular prosthesis 20 is fastened to the inner side of the stent 21 so that after implantation of the vascular prosthesis, the stent rests between the natural cardiac valve and the bio-prosthesis and has no contact with the blood. Thus, the stent does not require the application of anti-coagulants against thrombosis. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 5 illustrates the pump portion 14 with the pump ring 15. The balloon of the dilating device 18 and the valve prosthesis 20 are folded in a plurality of loops around the pump ring 15, the valve prosthesis being affixed to the rods of the stent 21. ~~In~~ ^{Int} In this state, the balloon, the valve prosthesis 20 and the stent 21 form a flat package surrounding the pump portion 14. This package is positioned in the natural cardiac valve AK. Thereafter, the pump is activated and the dilating device 17 is inflated with the pump operating. The stent 21 is dilated, widening the cardiac valve prosthesis ~~24-20~~ and pressing the leaflets of the natural aortal valve AK outward into the open position (systolic valve position, as illustrated in Figure 7. Thereby, the aortal valve AK is passivated. The stent 21 remains in the cardiac valve opening. In the stent, there is the cardiac valve prosthesis ~~24-20~~ enlarged to its original state and including the valve leaflets 25. This cardiac valve now assumes the function of the natural aortal valve AK. --